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BOOK REVIEWS

La Mare au diable. By GEORGE SAND. Edited by MARIE KARCHER BROOKS for the Walter-Ballard French Series. [Direct Method.] New York: Scribner, 1916. Pp. 139. \$0.50.

A small octavo volume, attractively bound in green cloth, with frontispiece portrait, and of pleasing craftsmanship, ushers in the new series of Direct Method French texts.

This text, divided into 15 reading sections, each followed by explanatory notes, questions, and exercises, all in French, comprises 100 pages, of which more than 60 are given to the selections. A three-page résumé of subjunctive usage and 35 pages of French-English vocabulary complete the book.

Whereas the reading sections offer in George Sand's simple and idiomatic style an excellent theme for Direct Method grammatical exposition and cannot fail to awaken in the student some literary appreciation, they provide only a glimpse of the charm of the complete edition. Omissions and reductions have been liberally made, resulting in a much abbreviated version, in which the "coutures" are usually carefully concealed. The omission of chap. ix, "Prière du soir," is to be regretted, but the loss of the first chapter and of the "Appendice" does not harm the continuity of the tale. Paraphrase has been resorted to but little.

In notes, given at the bottom of the page, difficult constructions are explained in simple French. The "questionnaires" are thorough and not too long, and ample opportunity for learning deductively the elementary rules of French grammar is to be had in the exercises. In the latter particular emphasis is laid upon the use of the subjunctive and the infinitive tense agreement and a knowledge of and an ability to use common idiomatic expressions. A list of such expressions follows each section.

The vocabulary of about two thousand words seems to have been carefully compiled. Gender is clearly shown by marginal printing of the articles.

In second-year high-school classes, where it is desired to keep the classroom work in French, this volume might be used to excellent advantage, though the editor announces in her preface that she had in mind "the needs of pupils who have had two or three years of French."

OTTO F. BOND

A History of the Family as a Social and Educational Institution. By WILLYSTINE GOODSSELL. Crown 8vo, pp. xiv+588. 1915.

This book is one of the Textbook Series edited by Paul Monroe and aims to present in compact form a study of the family in its development from primitive